BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 11-24 June 17, 2011

- **Sales of manufactured goods slide 0.9% lower in April**
- **Multiple Listing Service® home sales edge down 1.2% in May**
- **Median after-tax income in BC falls 2.0% in 2009**

The Economy

- **Manufacturers in British Columbia saw sales slip 0.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April, chipping away at gains made in the previous month.** Sales were modestly higher in the machinery (+2.3%), food product (+1.5%) and primary metal (+1.0%) industries. However, these gains were offset by sagging shipments by computer & electronics (-8.1%), transportation equipment (-7.6%), paper (-3.9%) and wood (-1.4%) producers.

  Nationally, manufacturing sales fell 1.3% in April as weaker shipments of transportation equipment (-7.8%) accounted for most of the decline. Nine provinces posted lower sales including substantial slowdowns in Ontario (-1.8%) and Quebec (-1.3%). Prince Edward Island (-9.1%), Newfoundland & Labrador (-7.5%), Nova Scotia (-5.9%) and Saskatchewan (-5.3%) also were also down sharply. Only Alberta saw a rise in sales (+2.3%), bumped higher by significant gains in machinery (+16.7%) and fabricated metals (+16.6%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Compared to the same month in the previous year, the number of Multiple Listing Service® residential units sold in the province edged 1.2% lower in May.** While much of the province experienced a drop in sales, Fraser Valley (+7.8%) and Greater Vancouver (+7.2%) real estate boards saw sales advance. Despite the dip in unit sales, average prices in BC climbed 20.0% to $596,872 in May with substantial increases in average prices in Greater Vancouver (+25.7%) and Fraser Valley (+15.1%) leading the way.

  Data Source: British Columbia Real Estate Association

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in British Columbia inched ahead (+0.9% seasonally adjusted) in April.** Nationally, sales of new motor vehicles slowed 1.1% as increases in BC (+0.9%), Quebec (+0.6%) and Ontario (+0.4%) were offset by slowdowns in the rest of the country. The largest decline was in Alberta (-2.5%), where a three-month-long upturn came to a halt in April.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Wholesale sales in the province continued to decline in April, falling 0.9% (*seasonally adjusted*), following a similar decrease (-0.6%) in the previous month.** Five provinces posted gains, with the most significant boosts seen in Quebec (+1.7%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (+3.8%). At the other end of the scale, Saskatchewan (-10.6%) saw the most notable drop-off.

  Total Canadian sales (-0.1%) were relatively flat, with sales declining in four of the seven major industry groupings.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Income

- **Median after-tax income (*constant 2009 dollars*) for British Columbia families of two or more people was $67,200 in 2009, down 2.0% from the previous year.** This was the first drop in median after-tax income registered following six straight annual increases.

  Nationally, income was only marginally (-0.5%) lower in 2009 with eight provinces posting higher median incomes compared to 2008. Saskatchewan (+7.5%), Nova Scotia (+3.6%) and New Brunswick (+3.2%) exhibited

Report No report this issue

Did you know...

Roughly one-third of British Columbians would rather go/stay blonde than have any other hair colour

Data Source: Ipsos Canada

the largest increases. British Columbia (-2.0%) and Ontario (-1.3%), on the other hand, both recorded lower median incomes in 2009.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 75-202-X

Tourism

- **Visitor entries to Canada through BC were up (+0.7%, *seasonally adjusted*) for the first time this year in April.** Same-day visits from the US (-0.1%) were off for the third consecutive month, while overnight trips also continued to decline (-0.3%). Overall, total US entries dipped 0.3%. However, there were more travellers from overseas countries (+3.8%), driven primarily by a double-digit increase (+11.5%) in the number of visitors from Asia. Meanwhile, European entries (-2.1%) were down.

  There were nearly 1.2 million Canadians returning home via BC in April, up 3.3% from the previous month. Total trips from the US increased 2.8%, while the number of Canadians returning from overseas jumped (+8.1%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Agriculture

- **The price BC farmers received for their agricultural commodities climbed (+5.9%) in March from the same month a year earlier.** The Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) was 115.6 (1997=100), its highest level since March of 2009. Double-digit gains in prices for livestock and animal products (+10.4%) managed to offset a moderate decrease in crop prices (-1.3%). Nationally, crop prices surged 23.1%, while prices for livestock and animal products were also notably higher (+14.1%) than their March 2010 level. Canada's overall FPPI rose 17.3% in March. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The cash income of BC farm businesses fell to just over $2.6 billion in 2010, slightly less (-0.7%) than in the previous year.** Virtually all (93%) of this income came from sales of products, with another 4% coming from custom work and the remainder from program and other payments. As a whole, Canadian farm businesses earned 88% of their income from sales of products. Nationally, program payments (7%) were a key secondary source of income, followed by custom work and other sources of cash income (6%).

  Data Source: SC Cat no 21-018-X

Work-Related Injuries

- **The number of job-related injuries reported to Work Safe BC was 141,968 in 2009, down substantially (-15.6%) from 2008.** There were notably fewer occupational fatalities reported in 2009 (174) than in 2008 (182) and just 0.12% of all workplace injuries resulted in death.

  Data Source: Work Safe BC

Technology

- **Nearly a third of online Canadians (31%) are smartphone owners.** Ownership has surged by more than 50% since previously measured in the spring of 2010, with smartphone owners now spending an average of a whopping 17.3 hours per week using their device.

  Most smartphone users use their devices to take photos (70%), send or read email (70%), check the weather (52%), send or receive instant/text messages (52%) and check social networking sites (48%). Interestingly, most smartphone usage (54%) is for activities other than talking. *Data Source: Ipsos Canada*

The Nation

- **Industries operating in Canada utilized 79% of their production capacity during the first quarter of 2011, up 2.2 percentage points from the previous quarter.** This most recent increase marks the largest of seven straight quarterly improvements in the capacity utilization rate since the fourth quarter of 2009. Both manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries recorded significant increases.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of Canada's foreign liabilities (+1.4%) increased more than its assets (+0.6%) in the first quarter of 2011, resulting in a net increase in the nation's international indebtedness to $209.7 billion.** Growth in international assets was inhibited by the effect of the appreciation of the Canadian dollar.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

***Infoline* Issue: 11-24**
June 17, 2011

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline

June 17, 2011
Issue 11–24

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,554.1	1.2
Canada	34,278.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Apr 2011	3,174	-0.9
Merchandise Exports - Apr 2011	2,422	-9.1
Retail Sales - Mar 2011	4,851	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Apr 2011)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.7	1.9
Vancouver	2.6	2.2
Victoria	2.7	1.6
Canada	3.3	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	May 2011	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	5.2	
Labour Force - BC	2,464.4	-0.1
Employed - BC	2,278.1	0.2
Unemployed - BC	186.3	-4.3
		Apr 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.6	7.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.4	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 15/2011	Jun 16/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.70
- 5 year	5.39	5.99
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 15/2011	Jun 16/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9780	1.0236
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0215	0.9752
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	May 2011	% change on one year ago
BC	831.56	0.5
Canada	837.44	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Socio-Economic Profiles 2010

The 2010 Socio-Economic Profiles are now available. These profiles present data in tables and charts on population, economic hardship, labour market, education, crime, health and risk factors for children and youth. Some special regions and the Indices should be available by the end of June.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/choose.asp

2010 BC Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey Summary Report

The 2010 Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey was conducted with former students who completed the final year of their apprenticeship training in a B.C. post-secondary institution between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Approximately six months later, from January to April of 2010, 2,750 former students from 29 institutions (14 public and 15 private) participated in survey telephone interviews - the gross response rate was 56 percent. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit BC Student Outcomes

http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/APPSO_Reports/2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf

File Finder

BC Stats powerful new tool to find small area data on the web site. Users can filter on an area type or a specific location, time period, product, and subject. The File Finder app is still very much under development and only a few products have been linked into it as yet, but it is already quite useful so we decided to share it with you.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/filefinder.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- No subscription releases

Next week

- No subscription releases

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca